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8. Audio signal processing arrangement comprising a plurality of inputs for receiving input audio signals, processing means for deriving processed audio signals from the input audio signals, the audio processing arrangement comprising combining means for deriving a combined audio signal from the processed audio signals, wherein the audio processing arrangement comprises a non-measurement based control means for controlling the processing means in order to maximize a power measure of the combined audio signal, and in that the control means are arranged for limiting a combined power gain measure of the processed audio signals to a predetermined value.

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10. Audio processing method comprising receiving a plurality of input audio signals from a plurality of audio sources, deriving processed audio signals from the input audio signals, deriving a combined audio signal from the processed audio signals, wherein the audio processing method comprises reducing reverberation by controlling the processing of the audio signals in order to maximize a power measure of the combined audio signal, and in that the method comprises non-measurement based controlling the processing for limiting a combined power gain measure of the processed audio signals to a predetermined value.

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested in light of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 8 and 10 has been amended. Support of amending these claims can be found in the specification at least on page 2, line 9-21. Claims 1-10 are now pending.

SUMMARY OF THE REJECTIONS:

(1) Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first and second paragraph, in light of the “non-measurements based control means” element.

(2) Claims 1-4 and 8-10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated from the article by Kellermann (U.S. 5,602,962 hereafter “Kellermann”).

(2) Claims 5-7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being obvious over Kellermann in view of Kaneda. (U.S. 4,536,887 hereafter “Kaneda”).

35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 3, 6, 9, 12, and 14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one to make and/or use the invention; and second paragraph, as being indefinite. In particular, the limitation of “wherein the audio processing arrangement comprises a non-measurement based control means” is alleged to be not described.

In response, Applicants respectfully note page 2, lines 9-21, which states, “... the CDR CIRCUIT 206 extracts the data and the clock signals from the amplified signal.”

The object of the present invention is to provide an audio processing arrangement in which no measurements have to be performed before deployment of the audio processing arrangement.

To achieve this objective the audio processing arrangement according to the invention is characterized in that the audio processing arrangement comprises control means for controlling the processing means in order to maximize a power measure of the combined audio signal, and in that the control means are arranged for limiting a combined power gain measure of the processed audio signals to a predetermined value.

By maximizing a power measure of the combined audio signal under the

constraint that a combined power gain measure (e.g. the sum of the power of the individual signals) is limited to a predetermined value, no use of measured data has to be made. Experiments have shown that the intelligibility of the speech signal is not deteriorated with respect to the prior art arrangement.

Applicants respectfully submit that one skilled in the art, after reviewing the specification, would be able to make and/or use the invention and that the specification is definite. Accordingly, removal of these rejections is respectfully requested.

35 U.S.C. §102(a):

According to the Office Action, Komaki allegedly teaches, *inter alia*, a front plate including a dielectric layer, a protective layer and a UV light reflecting layer and the protective layer is between the dielectric layer and the UV light reflecting layer.

It is respectfully submitted that Komaki does not anticipate any of the instant claims, *inter alia* as amended, at least because it does not teach, show or describe a non-measurement based control means..., as recited in Claim 1. Amended independent Claims 8 and 10 recite similar limitations.

The Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit held in *Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California*, 814 F.2d 628,631, 2 USPQ2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987):

A claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference.

All claims dependent from claims 1, 8 and 10 are believed to be allowable at least for dependency therefrom, and for separate reasons of patentability.

For the reasons previously indicated, the Final Office Action fails to set forth each and every claimed element in a single reference. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this ground of rejection are respectfully requested.

35 U.S.C. §103(a)

In view of the above amendments and comments the Section 103 rejection of dependent claims 5-7 is believed obviated.

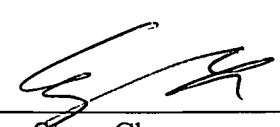
Conclusion

The applicants have made a sincere attempt to advance the prosecution of this application by reducing the issues for consideration and specifically delineating the zone of patentability. The applicants submit that the claims, as they now stand, fully satisfy the requirements of 35 U.S.C. 112, 102 and 103. In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, entry of this amendment, favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application are respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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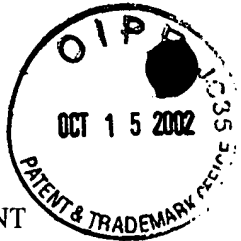
AMENDMENT
U.S. Appln. No. 09/196,064

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AMENDMENT
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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

8. (Amended) Audio signal processing arrangement comprising a plurality of inputs for receiving input audio signals, processing means for deriving processed audio signals from the input audio signals, the audio processing arrangement comprising combining means for deriving a combined audio signal from the processed audio signals, wherein the audio processing arrangement comprises a non-measurement based ~~reverberation reducing~~ control means for controlling the processing means in order to maximize a power measure of the combined audio signal, and in that the control means are arranged for limiting a combined power gain measure of the processed audio signals to a predetermined value.

10 (Amended) Audio processing method comprising receiving a plurality of input audio signals from a plurality of audio sources, deriving processed audio signals from the input audio signals, deriving a combined audio signal from the processed audio signals, wherein the audio processing method comprises reducing reverberation by controlling the processing of the audio signals in order to maximize a power measure of the combined audio signal, and in that the method comprises non-measurement based controlling the processing for limiting a combined power gain measure of the processed audio signals to a predetermined value.